

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11240 081801Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 INR-10 ACDA-12 /045 W

-----118450 091443Z /41

R 081607Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO USICA WASHDC  
USINFO WASHDC  
USNMR SHAPE  
SECSTATE WASHDC 7132

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11240

USICA

USINFO FOR PGM/RC; PGM/PP; EU; STATE FOR EUR AND AF

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BELGIAN MEDIA REACTION

1. EUROVISION-SUPPLIED CLIPS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH WERE SHOWN ON BOTH THE DUTCH AND FRENCH-LANGUAGE BELGIAN TELEVISION NETWORKS' EVENING NEWS PROGRAMS JUNE 7. LA LIBRE BELGIQUE COMMENTING ON THE SPEECH JUNE 8 UNDER THE HEADING "MR. CARTER INVITES MOSCOW TO SHOW RESTRAINT IN AFRICA" WRITES: "THOSE LAST FEW WEEKS AN ENORMOUS CACOPHONY IN THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ONCE AGAIN GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER... DIDN'T HAVE A VERY CLEAR POLITICAL VISION. THE PROSPECT OF A RETURN TO THE COLD WAR, OF A FREEZE OF SALT II NEGOTIATIONS TO 'PUNISH' THE COMMUNISTS FOR THEIR ACTIVITY IN AFRICA WHERE THE U.S. DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW VERY WELL WHAT TO DO, WAS FIRST CONFIRMED BY INFORMANTS OF THE 'TOUGH' WING (BRZEZINSKI) AND LATER DENIED BY THE DIPLOMATS (VANCE). EVEN THE VERY NUANCED STATEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF HESITATION..." AFTER SUMMARIZING THE SPEECH, THE PAPER CONCLUDES: "IF, AS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHITE HOUSE ASSERTS, ALL THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO HAVE A SAY IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING THIS CLARIFICATION AND IF THE CONFLICTING VOICES IN THE ADMINISTRATION ABSTAIN, BE IT ONLY FOR A WHILE, FROM EXPOSING THEIR DIFFERENCES PUBLICLY, MR. CARTER WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CLEARING THE ATMOSPHERE, IN DISPELLING MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND IN STOPPING A VERBAL

ESCALATION WHICH CAN ALWAYS LEAD TO A SERIOUS CRISIS.  
MESSRS. VANCE AND GROMYKO ARE TRYING TO ARRANGE AN APPOINT-  
MENT THIS MONTH SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE TO CONTINUE THE SALT  
II NEGOTIATIONS AND SOME QUIET WILL BE WELCOME FOR THEM."  
KORENGOLD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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